

Application No.: 10/659,203
Docket No.: AD6930 USNA

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REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1- 12 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-5 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 6-12 are finally rejected.

Applicant has amended claim 1, to limit the claimed invention to thermoplastic materials, which by definition excludes polyimide. Further claim 6 is amended, and is now commensurate in scope to claim 1 with respect to the recited thermoplastic material of claim 1.

Traversal

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,789,523 (George et al.) Applicant has made amendments to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited reference. Claims 1 and 6 are amended to exclude the possible inclusion of polyimide. Applicant's invention is now limited to thermoplastic material, as recited. George et al. has not disclosed the use of thermoplastic material, without the use of polyimide, to achieve low coefficient of friction thermoplastic containing filler as Applicant has in Example 3 of the present specification.

The Examiner has also maintained rejection of claims 1 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,844,036 (Hughes). Hughes is directed to the limitations of commonly available filled polyetheretherketone (PEEK), and the high cost of polybenzimidazole (or PBI)-containing PEEK (see the entire patent, and specifically, col. 5, lines 20-42). The cited reference does not discuss, suggest, or contemplate other thermoplastic materials as does Applicant's invention, as amended. Consequently, Applicant's invention is non-obvious over Hughes. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

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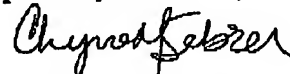
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of pending claims. Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's attorney using the contact information provided below if anything further is needed to advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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